**John Wright 20/09/1919 to 17/09/2018**

I must first say that I had only known John since June last year, but we talked a lot and I gradually learnt a lot about his life before he came to Spain. There will be gaps in my knowledge, but I would like to give you as full a picture as I am able, of the extraordinary life that he had led before coming here.

John was born just after the 1st World War in Reigate in Surrey. He told me his parents worked in a big house in some capacity and they all lived there. He joined the Royal Corps of Signals on 15th December 1939 at the age of 20, and his trade was listed as a Display Artist. Clearly his artistic talent had already been recognised!

He spent his time in the Army in India and told great tales of his time there and having to spend the summers in the mountains to escape the heat.

He trained in the Army as a draughtsman, progressing from a draughtsman Class 3 to a draughtsman Class 1 by May 1942. He continued his service in India until July 1946.

He was given some fascinating leaflets and handbooks by the Army to help him understand the country to which he had been posted, which he kept until his death. I have them here if anyone is interested to see them.

What a wonderful inspiration Indian art must have been to him as a designer after the War.

When he was demobbed, he went back to England and attended Art College to gain formal qualifications. He became an Industrial Designer and subsequently worked as a fabric designer for Liberty’s of London.

He was a Fellow of the Society of Illustrators, Artists and Designers, FSIAD. Some of his designs were nominated for Awards by the Design Council. One of John’s most successful designs was used for carpets in cinemas, throughout the world. John travelled abroad often as a designer for Liberty, even as far afield as Japan.

I have here some photos of an exhibition of his work in Japan with a huge portrait photo of John on the wall, next to a Union Jack, as the star of the show and what I presume are details of his career and achievements, in Japanese below. The walls are covered in John’s designs and the exhibition is full of admiring Japanese.

You are very welcome to see these photos, if you are interested.

After the war, John met his lifetime partner Jocelyn Walker. Jocelyn had served in Europe during the war and received several medals during his military career.

These medals are still in John’s apartment to this day, together with a summary of what they were awarded for. John told me that they were together for 63 years, until Jocelyn died in 2014.

In 1979 they both retired and bought Lanhael House in Polperro in Cornwall.

They set it up as a small hotel and took in guests for 6 months of the year and had the offseason to themselves. John was busy in the kitchen! Even doing gourmet evenings in the winter.

He was a great cook, as those who attended their dinner parties can confirm. The dinner parties, I am told, were legendary, with John cooking up a storm and Jocelyn playing mine host and helping with drinks and serving the food.

During their time there they achieved an entry in the Michelin Guide as the best accommodation in Polperro, and featured in the “Best Bed and Breakfast in the World” Guide. They were even featured in the Los Angeles Times in 1984 and 85, in an unsolicited review, as the “Best place to stay in Britain”!

As was always their intention, they sold this business and retired finally to come and live in Los Flamencos apartments in Guadalmina Alta, in 1986, although they later moved to Golf Park in Atalaya.

What a marvellous life John had! I am overwhelmed when I think of the changes that he must have seen during his lifetime.

It is sad that he is not able to be with us today to celebrate his 99th birthday but looking back on what he achieved in his lifetime, we should be happy that he led such a full and fulfilled life

Let us hope he is now reunited with Jocelyn.